Issue 1



Minority, Economic, Development, Industrial and Cultural Enterprises, Inc.,

WEDDCSEED!

## MEDIC Enterprises, Inc. Minority Economic Development in Newark

Two things have to happen before black capitalism is a reality in this country. First, there must be an input of technical advice and assistance to the black businessmen.... Secondly, an infusion of capital is a must if black businesses are to survive...but what is [also] needed is a real commitment to minority enterprise and a determination that black capitalism can and will work. I have no doubt that black entrepreneurs can change the life in the ghetto. More jobs can be created by black businesses. Community residents can be trained and employed by these businesses for rewarding careers. As a consequence, more money will be circulating in the community for the good of the community. Better housing and education will also derive from the increased economic power of ghetto residents... . As the black man improves his economic condition, he will likewise improve conditions around him.

These words of Massachusetts Senator Edward W. Brooke, taken from February's issue of Black Enterprise, describe the basic concept behind the creation of MEDIC Enterprises, Inc. (Minority, Economic, Development, Industrial and Cultural Enterprises, Inc.).

MEDIC originated in September 1968, and shortly thereafter, was incorporated in the State of New Jersey as a non-profit corporation. Its founders, representing a broad cross-section of Newark's minority community, envisioned that MEDIC would become "a master planning agency" for the economic development and growth of Newark's ghetto economy. They sought to do more than create a corporation that would merely provide loans and management assistance to ghetto entrepreneurs, but rather to forge for Newark a community-wide organizational capability "that would be able to deal effectively with the wide range of problems that are rooted in the economic dependency and weakness of the indigenous population of the ghetto."

MEDIC receives financial assistance from the federal government through the Economic Development Administration and from the state government through the Department of Community Affairs. In addition, MEDIC receives some funds from foundations, business and industry, and other private sources.

With its staff of eight (president, vicepresident, 3 financial analysts, administrative assistant, executive secretary and receptionist/ typist), MEDIC is attempting to develop enterprises in the areas of business and finance, housing and construction, printing and publishing, retail and merchandising, manufacturing, insurance, and such social and cultural services as day care and drug rehabilitation centers, and a community theatre. MEDIC assists in the development of these enterprises by identifying business opportunities, providing managerial and technical assistance, conducting feasibility studies and market analyses, writing proposals and providing financial assistance (either directly providing funds from its limited source of capital or identifying funding sources and providing assistance in applying for such financial aid).

Since its inception, MEDIC has experienced a number of recurring problems that are seemingly inherent to minority economic development. Time has been one of the primary difficulties that MEDIC has encountered in working with minority entrepreneurs, Specifically, the length of time that it normally takes to get a funding package approved by the banks, SBA, and other lending or guarantee sources. Most minority entrepreneurs in need of financial assistance experience a great deal of difficulty in trying to sustain themselves during this lengthy period of time.

Another problem that has plagued minority economic development has been the extremely conservative approach that most banks have been taking on all minority business financial requests. Almost all banks have been requiring SBA approval and guarantees on all funding packages submitted to them. This made the problem of minority financing particularly acute when SBA reached its statutory lending and guarantee ceiling in late November of last year. This brought a virtual halt to most minority business loans. In an effort to keep at least a "trickle" of financing open to minorities, MEDIC experimented (with some degree of success) with various financing arrangements between the bank and its clients.

Lavish, but unfulfilled promises from government, officials and corporate leaders has been another problem area for minority economic development. In early October of last year, Secretary of Commerce, Maurice H. Stans, made a visit to Newark to designate MEDIE Enterprises as an affiliate of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, and to actively support minority economic prise, and to actively support minority control of MEDIC. The second of the second of the concenter. The provide MEDIC with an information center-display and distributable pamphlets, brochures and booklets—and an increased capabilty for managerial and technical assistance.



With the extensive publicity surrounding the visit of Secretary Stans, and MEDICS designation as an OMEE efficient coupled with the promises of support that were being swords by President Nixon, MEDIC was beset with a number of requests which it was unable to Bil. The visit of Secretary Stans and the promises from the White House herafield a new period of extended capabilities and resources for minority economic develorment in Newsyn.

An overall analysis of the Newark scene, however, reveals that very little has changed, MEDIC now has a library or information center and an "OMBE Affilister" sign on its door. But its capacity for management and technical assistance, and its support from business and industry has increased very little. MEDIC is convinced that if we are to make any significant inreads in minority economic development, government and business of the converse o

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#### FROM MEDIC

For the past few years, MEDIC Enterprises has been actively engaged in the area of minority

economic development in the city of Newark. And for that same period of time, we have been concerned with the absence of a publication designed to present a realistic picture of minority economic development in this city.

Now, MEDIC is attempting to ful that void with the publication of tin newelter, MEDIC NEWS. Each month MEDIC NEWS will describe various aspects of the overall economic development picture in the city of Newark. More than merely letting of minority enterpersours, jobe and bustness opportunities, MEDIC NEWS will (including education, housing and the social services) as they affect the life-styler of Newark residents.

MEDIC NEWS will focus on the activities of MEDIC Enterprises and the people who are responsible for MEDIC's direction - our twentynine (29) board members. We will talk about local minority entrepreneurs - their successes and their problems - and we will offer business tips or suggestions for successful business ownership and management, MEDIC NEWS will describe the services that various agencies and organizations provide for Newark residents, and provide a listing of community activities planned by these agencies and organizations. In addition, each month MEDIC NEWS will invite a representative from the local community (business, government or social service) to present his views on any problem or issue of particular concern to the Newark community.

It is our aim that MEDIC NEWS will go further than the mere presentation of stories of successful minority businessmen, adequately-functioning community organizations and agencies, and government and private sector cooperation in assisting minority economic development. Where there are successes, we will record them with pleasure. But where there are difficulties, and our experiences of the past few years tell us that there are many, we will also deal with those. It is our intention to present as accurate an account as is possible of minority economic development in the city of Newark. We at MEDIC, have accepted the task of filling the city's information void, and we expect to fulfill it with as much austerity of purpose, accuracy and relevance as the black journals of the early 1800's provided for their communities.

We invite your comments and suggestions on the newsletter or on any particular articles in the newsletter, and ask that you address them to: Carolyn Odom, Editor MEDIC NEWS, MEDIC Enterprises, Inc. 287 Washington Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

MEDIC PRESS A Subsidiary Corporation

MEDIC Press, Inc., was founded in July 1969, with \$9,000 worth of letterpress machinery and printing equipment that was donated to MEDIC Enterprises by a retired printer through the Business and Industrial Coordinatins Council.

With the promise of support from some 14 corporations within the Newark area, and a small grant from MEDIC Enterprises, the Press was able to begin its operations. The baitory of the development of MEDIC Press is characterized by many of the same difficulties that are experienced by most minority enterprises—insulficient financing, limited working capital, inadequate equipment and unavailability of experienced personned.

MEDIC Press began its operations with fixed aneste of approximately \$9,000. During the succeeding months, the Press filed an application for a SBA guaranteed loan of \$35,000 for the purpose of expanding its operations and acquiring offset printing equipment. During this same period, MEDIC Press hired an experienced letterpress and offset machine operator but expended an extraordinary amount of time trying to locate other experienced insurerly pressure. Coupled with the experienced insurerly pressure and the press of the

In the early months of 1970 to counter this worsening situation, MEDIC Press did two things; (1) setch primarily as a printing broker, taking orders for printing work, but basically farming its johs out a commission basis, and (2) began present. A "30" offset press was purchased and two skilled and experienced offset pressures, as well as a vari-typist were bired. This brought the total number of MEDIC Press staff to six.

From a sales low of a few hundred dollars in July 1969, MEDIC Press soared to a moth high level in excess of \$10,000 in October 1970. For the ten months of 1970, MEDIC Press grossed close to \$45,000 in total sales and acquired fixed assets valued at approximately \$30,000. MEDIC Press has designed and printed a wide range of materials, including several books (a quarterly black economic research journal and an anthology of poems), multi-colored pamphlets, newsletters, brochures, large multi-colored posters, annual reports, labels, throw-aways, program journals and a wide variety of invitations.

MEDIC Press is now capable of producing in-house its own graphic design (through its graphic arts department), typesetting, stripping and platemaking. With its offset presses, the Press can turn out as many as 95,000 impressions a day. In addition, it has recently acquired an IBM computerized cold two composition system.

MEDIC Press is not only capable of handling large volume runs, but also has the necessary potential for entering the publishing field as well. Future plans for the Press, include a project to capitalize on this potential as well as to expand upon its present services.

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## TRI-CITIES LIMO SERVICE "A MINORITY ENTERPRISE"

Two young, black, enterprising, airline passenger service representatives, with a dream of owning their own business and an idea of what that business should be, heard about MEDIC Enterprises through a friend.

Enterprises through a tirends, exclude and They came to MEDIC dream into a business reality. Eleven months later, these two service representatives (James E. Chambers, If and Leo Arrington, Je.) were operating the business of which they had dreamed—Tri-Cittes Limo Service, a personalized airport limousine service for the North Jeresy area. Their dream did not come easily but was the result of many sanitance from MEDIC.

with MEDICs assistance, an area market survey to determine the feasibility of establishing a limousine service in the North Jersey area was conducted. Three-hundred industries in the area were polled concerning their feelings about the need for a limousine service, and whether or not provided to the proposition of t

MEDIC, then wrote the proposal for "TiT-Cities Linu Service" and submitted a funding package in the amount of \$53,00,00 to First Jersey, National Bank for finnning, During the registration period, MEDIC acted as a liaison Administration and Tit-Cities. A loan in the amount of \$48,000,00 was awarded to Tit-Cities Linu Service by First Jersey National Bank with a 90 per cent guseantee from SBA, MEDIC, in difference between Tit-Cities Immarial necks and the amount of the loan which was granted by the bank.

This money enabled Tri-Cities to purchase free 1971, seven-passenger fully-equipped Ford Station Wagons, and to hire a staff of two full-time drivers, a receptionist/typist, and a few part-time workers. With assistance from MEDIC, all operational forms were designed and printed. A marketing plan and an operational plan were developed, and Tri-Cities was now ready to begin

functioning.



Owners of Tri-Cities Limo Service Inc. Inspect one of their new limosines.

Tri-Cities operates on a seven day week, 24 hour'day basis. Its drivers, who are all experienced and licensed by the State of New Jersey, wear dark modals suits with matching shirts and ties. They pick-up passengers (by recervation) in the Passaic, Citino, Nutley area, and deliver them safely to one of the three municipal airports — Newark, LaGiuncidia or Kenneydr. Transportation arrangements are also made for the passengers' return fight. Tri-Cities has no specifically design.

nated pick-up points, but transports passengers from their homes, businesses or any other location within the North Jersey area.

After three months of operating their own business, Chambers and Arrington are still very enthusiastic about this venture. "We've had a number of difficulties that we hadn't planned for. such as not enough operating capital The believes that a new business should be given at least 6 months operating capitall, exceptionally high telephone bills, excessive cost of advertising and an extremely cautious consumer market," said Chambers, president of Tri-Cities. MEDIC is still giving Tri-Cities some managerial and technical assistance and eventhough things look pretty rough now, the owners are still planning for the day when they can expand their services to include "Cadillacs for Hire." "If we can just hold on a little longer..." Chambers stated wistfully.

Both Chambers and Arrington are residents of Passaic. Chambers who is 28 years old lives at 270 Highland Avenue, Passaic, with his wife Leslie and 9 months old son James, III. He attended Passaic High School, and Fairleigh Dickinson University where he majored in

Business Administration.

Arrington resides at 178 Sherman Street, Passaic with his wife Leatha. He is 35 and the father of three children — Sheldon (9), Arlana (6), and Jason (9 mos.). Arrington attended West Virginia State College and University of Kansas where he majored in Business Administration.

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#### ENGAGEMENT or COMMITMENT

# WILLIAM A. MERCER

Chairman of the Board, MEDIC Enterprises President, National Information Center, Inc.

Bill Mercer, a 20 year veteran in the field of communications, has a wealth of experiences all which spell out engagement or commitment.

His experiences run the full cycle of the communications field, from reporter to assistant advertising manager to magazine editor to public relations executive, and include sales promotion, marketing, fund raising, speechwriting and politics.

Bill is currently President of National Information Center, Inc. a Newark-Washington based communications/public relations firm specializing in "information dissemination on minorities." In addition to the heavy demands of his own business, Bill is on the Board of Directors of Newark's Broad National Bank, the advisory committee of the Clarles Engelhard Foundation, the board of Association Press (the national YMCA's publishing operation) and is a

member of the Public Relations Society of America. An alumnus of New York University's School of Commerce (journalism) and Graduate School of Arts & Science (listory and communications), Bill has been the recipient of a civil right activities. Among those groups that have recognized Bill for his community service are Newark Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Region of the National Conference of the United States Invocess.

Bill's association with MEDIC. Enterprises dates back to the founding of this corporation. It was then that MEDIC made its commitment to work to wards the complete economic development of Newark's ghetto economy, and to there the first-tyles of many of its residents. As a form the first-tyles of many of its residents, and MEDIC, Bill is still actively concerned with MEDIC. Bill is still actively concerned with MEDICS follifling this commitment.

Presently residing in Washington, D. C. with his wife Libby, Bill's future plans include a move to resume residence in Newark.

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## STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

by Thomas J. Greene

Why is it that in a country the size of the United States there are so many small business concerns? (Nearly ninety-five (95%) per cent of all American business operations are small enterprises which employ less than one hundred people and comprise less than twenty-one per cent of all manufacturing employments.

Is the reason simply that seemingly any individual possessing a strong desire to attain financial independence can make it on his own?

Or is it that anyone armed with some amount of capital can easily plunge into business, full of confidence with little or no knowledge or appreciation of the numerous problems encountered by business operations?

The answer, of course, is a combination of the marver, of course, is a combination of the Course of the course of the individual force apic, all this independence of the individual and indian minority eithers, against pepaking and indian minority eithers, Morrover, as take exception to this premise. Morrover, as majority of business services and operations can be entered into with fittle on no formal preparation, bureaucratic approval or even licensing. For after all, there is no mystique to creating assucessful business operation. The key to the successful business are considerable of the concension business operation. of confidence which is based upon a thorough sense of business understanding.

In my definition, a successful business in nothing more than the skillful exercise of options and alternatives which is based soundly on a businessman. To me, the key to the successful entry into the world of business in Preparation, even if this means nothing more than honestly appearing one's own readiness to enter business by way of "a check list".

# - A Check List -

There are, of course, specific principles which apply to specific types of businesses or in-dustries. However, there are basic or fundamental perinciples of business operations which apply to all business concerns. If the potential or budding businessman can answer the following twenty (20) categorical questions concerning his proposed business operation then he can feel as-curely confident that he is at least ready to start his own operation.

- [1.] What are the characteristics, buying habits etc. of his market or clientele?
- [2-] What is the best location for his store, plant, warehouse, and why? Where and who are his local competitors?
- [3.] What are the daily, weekly and monthly eash needs of his operation; What are the trade collection experiences?
- [4.] How much must be sell daily, weekly and monthly to make a profit? At what price or price ranges?
- [5.] Where can he go for legal, financial or management assistance? Is there a trade, business or area association for his type of business?
- [6.] Does his business have seasonal fluctuations? What are they, and how do they affect his business? What is the growth rate of his business?
- [7.] What are the best methods of reaching his market or clientele?
- [8.] Are there any legal and/or professional requirements for starting his type of business? What is the best business form, entity or type of business?
- [9.] Is there a shelve life to his product, materials or supplies?
  [10.] Are there display space, selling space and/or
- [10.] Are there display space, selling space and/or production flow space considerations in his business?
- [11.] Is he aware of the various production and

administrative records to be kept which are common to his type of business?

[12.] Has he a method of sound financial record keeping in mind?

[13.] Is he aware of the various trade credit terms, discounts and best methods of taking advantage of them?

[14.] Is he aware of the various technology or equipment improvements within his business? Does he know how to keep abreast of such changes?

[15.] Has he prepared an adequate cash reserve for emergency? equipment replacement?

[16.] Is he aware of the various vendors, best buys and methods of purchasing?

[17.] Is he aware of the current wage and salary levels within his trade? Are there union scales, state or local minimum wage levels? [18.] Is he adequately covered for fire, theft, loss, death, accident, plate-glass breakage, law.

suits etc.?

[19.] Is he aware of the employee and management practices, hiring, training and

promotion policies of this trade or business?

[20,] Are there unique methods of marketing his
type of product or service?

In summary, the potential entrepreneur or businessman must know all about the business. For as we said hefore, the key to a successful small business operation is the owner-operator as ettested to by the two primary reasons for the hundreds of thousands of yearly business failures. Ninety per cent of all small business failures are management. But noy ordinations where there is good sound management there should be no financial problems.

During the ensuing months of the MEDIC. Newdetter this column will attempt to feal with specific areas of business operations and problems as they affect the small businessum. One such article, for instance, will deal with loan packaging, another with the various agencies, and institutious located in the greater Newark area that give councel and assistance to the local businessum. By way of this column, it is hoped that a "quick-glaunce" library of tips on small business management and operations will be created.

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Today's political rhetoric not withstanding, the problems of the urban crisis cannot be solved by business and industry nor government if the Community is not involved.

## MONTHLY BUSINESS TIP:

If given the option by a bank, financing institution or insurance company of having your monthly payments or premiums automatically deducted from your checking account it is normally to your best interest to decline.

Fixed deductions do not allow you the flexibility of using your money that one day or more that you just might need on some occasion.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson recently appointed a thirty-one man committee to work towards improving "the economic climate and health of the Gity of Newark so that the City can again become economically viable and stable."

The committee, designated as the Overall Economic Development Frogram. Committee, is composed of representatives from each major economic sector of the local economy, each experiency and each significant minority group. The OEDP Committee's primary function will be to chart committee of the com

Elvin R. Austin, president of MEDIC Enterprises, and Edward Lenihan, manager of Area Development, Public Service Electric & Gas Co., are co-chairmen of this committee.

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# Director of State Minority Enterprise Program Appointed

Arch S. Whitehead, a specialist in urban economic development, was recently named to head the State's minority enterprise program.

As director of the State minority enterpties program, Whitchead will administer the State's three component program which was designed to help minority residents throughout New Jersey to develop, own and operate business ventures. The Urban Loan Authority, the State Development Corporation, and the Economic Development Section of the Human Record Privision of the Component programs of the State's minority centerprise programs of the State's minority centerprise programs.

The Urban Loan Authority is a \$2 million State financed program that will either make direct loans or guarantee loans to minority individuals in the State of New Jersey. The State

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Development Corporation will select four or five community development corporations to make direct loans or guarantee loans to minority beautisement. There of these corporations were proporations were considered to the community of the Office of Economic Opportunity. They are TRENDCO (Trenton Development Corporation) in Trenton, BRUM (Black People's Unity Movementy in Camden, and WEDDC Enterprise, Industrial and Cultural Enterprises, Bro.) in Newark.



ARCH S. WHITEHEAD Director of the State's Minority Enterprise Program

Management assistance and technical training will be the principal components of the Economic Development Section of the Huter Resources Division. The Economic Development Section will offer training, conduct business seminars, assist various groups in economic projects and uponsor joint ventures between minority businessemen and corporations.

Whitehead hopes that his divisions will be able to accomplish there major goals: (1) to make banks more responsive to the needs of minority economic development. (2) to establish additional monies for minority economic development from outside the state. According to Whitehead, "money is the key," to any significant minority economic development from the complimation of the contraction of the centre State of New Jersey," he said.

Whitehead expects that the State's minority enterprise program will be fully operational in six weeks and making loans and/or guarantees within eight weeks. Presently, loan applications are being accepted and reviewed. Earmerly director of economic development at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Urban Institute, Whitchead brings a wealth of experiences to this new position. Whitchead was Counder and president of several New York-based outper in Society of the Property of the Property

Whitehead is married to the former Mary Ann Woody of Orange, New Jersey and is the father of five. Presently residing in New York City, the Whiteheads are anticipating a move to Orange, New Jersey in the near future.

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# Calendar of Community Activities:

On Monday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, 540 Broad Street, Newark. BICC will hold its regular monthly meeting. All interested persons are invited to strend.

ICBO is sponsoring courses in management training. bookkeeping and record keeping. The courses are held four nights a week, Monday – Thusduy, 8-10 p.m. at the Rutgers Newark Campus. These courses are free and open to all. Interesting persons should contact Bernard Sagerstein, Education Division, ICBO, 622-4771.

The College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey at Newark announces its series of Community Health Forums: "Better Health for Newark Begins With Healthy Families".

First in this series will be a discussion of "Early Prenatal Care" which will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m., Gueen of Angels School Auditorium, 44 Belmont Ave., Newark. Participants will include representatives from the Newark Health Department, Model Cities, CMDNJN and Martland Hospital.

The community is urged to attend. Refreshments will be served. For further information contact: Charles Breese, assistant director, Community Relations, CMDNJN, 877-4564.

# FIRST ANNUAL MANPOWER WORKSHOP, CONFERENCE

Newark's needs for increased employment opportunities in the coming decade will be the focus of a two-day workshop-conference, April 23-24 at Fbrow Magor 100 Clinton Avenue, Newark.

The theme for the workshop-conference, which is being sponsored by the Mayor's Office of the City of Newark, T.E.A.M., inc. and The Green Newark C.A.M.P.S. Committee, will be "Newark's Manpower Needs: New Directions for the 70's". Representatives of agencies involved in manpour training, education and employment, as well as representatives from the community have been invited to a tend.

Keynote speaker for Friday's Opening Session will be Clayton J. Cottrell, Regional Manpower Administrator, U. S. Department of Labor. Other guest speakers will include Cyril Tyson, Research Associate, Harvard University (former director of United Community Corporation), and Senator Harrison P. Williams, Cairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Welfare.

Topics to be discused in the workshops are: "Mappower in Newark:
Choso or Chrity": "Mappower and Economic Development in the City of
Newark: "Bole of the Union in the Marpower Complex"; "C.A.M.P.S. - is
it the Solution to Sound Planning of Manpower Programs?": "Employment
Opportunities in the Public and Private Sector"; "Manpower Legislation";
"Youth": and "Health Manpower."

Registration fee for the entire conference, including workshops, breakfast and lunch, and Friday's dinner meeting, will be \$20,00. Persons wishing to attend only the conference sessions can register for these on an individual basis.

Further information and registration can be secured from Harry L. Wheeler, Director-Secretary, Greater Newark C.A.M.P.S. Committee, Office of the Mayor, 643-6300.

Officers & Executive Committee

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MEDIC-ENTERPRISES, Inc. 287 Washington Street Newark, New Jersey 07102



